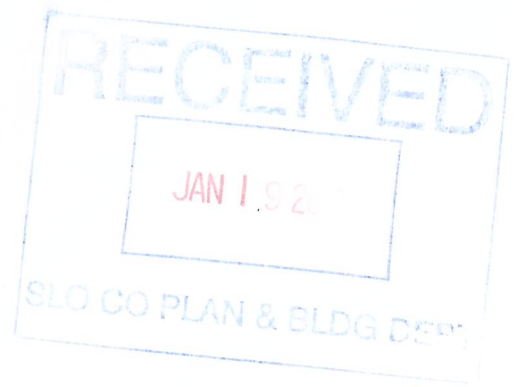


January 11, 2016



Mrs. Ryan Hostetter, Senior Planner
San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building
976 Osos St., Rm. 200
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-2040

RE: Phillips 66 Rail Spur Expansion Project

Dear Mrs. Hostetter and Members of the Planning Commission,


The Chabot College Academic Faculty Senate is writing to state our opposition to the Phillips 66 oil train offloading facility expansion in San Luis Obispo County. Our Senate is particularly concerned with the increase in oil-train traffic generated by this project through many densely populated areas surrounding our campus, including Oakland, Alameda, San Leandro, Hayward, Union City, and Fremont, and the risk it poses to schools and colleges like ours along the rail route.

The most significant impact identified in the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) is accidents on the main rail line that could result in oil spills, fires, and explosions near populated areas. Our current rail system is designed to connect residents to their destinations throughout the state, not move large quantities of hazardous materials like crude oil. Chabot College happens to be located within a one-mile US Department of Transportation Potential Impact Zone (for oil train derailment or fire) to the west, and is less than a mile away from a second one-mile Potential Impact Zone to the east. This is an unconscionable risk for community college students and faculty to bear.

The RDEIR did not evaluate the relative air quality or greenhouse gas emissions for the entire project area, which includes oil transport through northern California to the San Luis Obispo County facility. The diesel emissions from operational activities of trains along the route would generate toxic pollutant emissions that exceed allowable thresholds, increasing the risk of cancer, heart disease, and respiratory disease, especially in the very young, such as the many children who attend Chabot's Early Childhood Development lab school on a daily basis. Worse, our campus is already located in a carbon dioxide "non-attainment zone," meaning our air quality already tests at the upper allowable limit for pollutants. The RDEIR should have taken situations like ours into consideration.

On December 10, 2015, the Chabot College Academic Faculty Senate voted to oppose the Phillips 66 Rail Spur Expansion Project and to respectfully request that the San Luis Obispo Planning Commission vote to deny the project.

Sincerely,


Diane Zuliani, Vice President
Chabot College Academic Faculty Senate



Chabot College Academic Faculty Senate

Resolution Regarding Santa Maria Phillips 66 Rail Refinery

December 10, 2015

WHEREAS, colleges and college districts have an obligation to provide a safe and healthful learning environment for all students; and

WHEREAS, Chabot College is located between two proposed rail routes and sits squarely within an area identified by the U.S. Department of Transportation as an impact zone for oil train fires; and

WHEREAS, Chabot College faculty, staff, and students would be directly impacted by explosions and fires caused by the derailment of oil trains, the occurrence of which has grown increasingly common with the 4,000% increase in oil by rail transport over the last six years; and

WHEREAS, college employees, including faculty, are state-mandated disaster workers while on the job, and we are not at all equipped to deal with the dangers posed by this project or to adequately protect the lives and the well-being of our students and employees; and

WHEREAS, the toxic daily air emissions that will accompany this project pose serious adverse risks to the health of our students and community through what Phillips itself acknowledges are "significant and unavoidable" levels of air pollution along the rail route, with sulfur dioxide and other toxic chemicals that increase risk of cancer, heart disease, respiratory disease and premature death; and

WHEREAS, there is already a high incidence of childhood asthma and allergies in Alameda County (the asthma hospitalization rate in Alameda County has twice the state average and is the third-highest in California); and

WHEREAS, resolutions opposing or the Phillips Rail Refinery project have been adopted by other local elected bodies including the City Councils of Oakland, Berkeley, Richmond, San Leandro and San Jose, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, and the School Boards of Oakland, San Leandro, Hayward, Fremont and San Lorenzo;

WHEREAS, the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for this proposed project does not adequately assess the risks of an oil train disaster; the draft only

evaluates rail-accident rates from 2003 to 2012 and spill rates between 2005 and 2009, omitting crucial data about accident frequency and magnitude in 2013 and 2014. This is troubling because we know that more crude spilled from trains in 2013 than during the past four decades combined. The EIR must look at recent data, which reflects the increased quantities of crude being transported in old and unsafe tank cars. The draft EIR uses outdated data that drastically underestimates the danger of a derailment or spill, which could put our school communities and children at severe risk. While school employees are state-mandated disaster workers while on the job, we are not at all prepared for the accidents that could happen from these heavy, dangerous trains containing hazardous oil.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chabot College Academic Faculty Senate opposes the Phillips 66 oil train project for all the above stated reasons, and urges the San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors to reject this project.